

Shaker Church Family Round Barn
S. side of U. S. Rt. 20 near intersection
with State Rt. 41, 5 mi. W. of Pittsfield
Hancock
Berkshire County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-674

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY ROUND BARN

HABS
MASS

Location: South side of U.S. Rt. 20 near intersection with State Rt. 41, 5 miles west of Pittsfield, Hancock, Berkshire County, Massachusetts 2-HANC 9-

Present Owner and Occupant: Shaker Community, Inc., Hancock, Massachusetts

Present Use: Exhibition Area

Statement of Significance: An object of "grand architectural curiosity... visited as a curiosity by thousands of people." (Holland, 1855).

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1826.
2. Architect: None.
3. Original and subsequent owners: United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing; Shaker Community, Inc. (after 1960).
4. Builder, suppliers, etc.: Built by the "mechanic" of the Hancock Shakers; possibly Elder William Deming. Local materials were used for the construction.
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: No known original plans.
6. Alterations and additions: The barn originally had a conical roof. A fire on December 1, 1864 destroyed the roof and substructure. It was rebuilt with a circular loft and a louvered turret for light and air, "like a small hat box on a larger one." There have been some additions; a brick ell or wing with a carriage shed below, (date is not known), and a cattle shed with stanchions built since 1900.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The barn was visited by Hawthorne and other notables.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Barber, John Warner. Historical Collections....

Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts. Worcester, 1839, p. 74. This barn has been photographed several times. Many prints are now in the possession of Shaker Community, Inc.

2. Bibliography:

Barber, John Warner. Historical Collections...Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts. Worcester, 1839.

Holland, Josiah Gilbert. History of Western Massachusetts. Vol. 11, Part 111. Springfield, 1855, p. 499.

Independent Inquirer (August 2, 1834) (from New York Farmer).

New England Galaxy (Boston, June 15, 1827).

A sketch made early in the century by a Williams College student by the name of Wright (now in the Williams College Library).

Prepared by Edward Deming Andrews
Curator
Shaker Community, Inc.
March 22, 1962

PROJECT INFORMATION

The information in this report is incomplete, but has been included in the Historic American Buildings Survey's collection because of the special knowledge of the author. Edward Deming Andrews, a notable author on Shaker history, religion, and arts, compiled the historical data. June, 1975